

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-17, 26-31 (cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A cushion for a wheelchair, the cushion comprising:  
a cushion matrix, wherein the cushion matrix includes  
~~at least one a plurality of~~ first cushion members wherein the ~~at least one each~~ first  
cushion member includes an amount of deformable filler material and an enclosure  
constructed of a flexible, moisture-resistant material that is formed to create an  
internal volume to accept and surround the filler material;  
at least one second cushion member wherein the at least one second cushion member  
includes an amount of a filler material including an encapsulated phase change  
material, and an enclosure constructed of a flexible, moisture-resistant material that is  
formed to create an internal volume to accept and surround the amount of filler  
material; and  
at least one support rail cushion; and  
a cushion member carrier, formed of a flexible material, shaped to accept and enclose  
each of the ~~at least one~~ first cushion member, each of the at least one second cushion  
member and the support rail cushion; and  
a cushion base member.
19. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 18, wherein the cushion has an  
identical number of first cushion members and second cushion members.
20. (Currently Amended) The cushion of claim 19, wherein at least one first cushion  
member has a different amount of filler material from another first cushion member.
21. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 19, wherein the first cushion member  
has a first major surface and the second cushion member has a second major surface and

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wherein the cushion member carrier includes a plurality of cushion compartments, each of which is sized and shaped to accept at least one first cushion member and at least one second cushion member, wherein each compartment is constructed to allow at least one first cushion member and at least one second cushion member to be positioned such that the first major surface is adjacent to the second major surface.

22. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 21, wherein the cushion compartments are arranged so that each cushion compartment is adjacent to at least one other cushion compartment.

23. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 21, wherein each cushion compartment includes one first cushion member and one second cushion member.

24. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 23, wherein the cushion has a top surface and the second cushion member is positioned closer to the top surface of the cushion than the first cushion member.

25. (Currently Amended) The cushion of claim 19, wherein the amount of filler material located within the second cushion member has a volume less than a volume of filler material located within ~~at least one~~ the first cushion member.

32. (Previously Presented) A cushion having top, bottom, left, right, front and back surfaces for use in a wheelchair, wherein the cushion has a depth defined as a distance from the front surface to the back surface, a width defined as a distance from a left surface to the right surface and a thickness defined as a distance from the top surface to the bottom surface, wherein the cushion is positionable in a seating area of the wheelchair such that the front surface is proximal to a front portion of the seating area and the back surface is proximal to a back portion of the seating area, and wherein the bottom surface of the cushion contacts with a top surface of the seating area of the wheelchair and the top surface of the cushion is positioned to accept a user when the user is seated upon the wheelchair, the cushion comprising:

a base, wherein the base has left, right, front, back, top and bottom surfaces that are oriented similarly substantially the same depth and width as the cushion, and the bottom surface of the base is substantially flat, wherein the base includes

a first base member, formed of a polymer, generally rectangular in shape, located near the bottom surface of the base, sized to extend substantially along the width and depth of the cushion, wherein a thickness of the first base member has a constant dimension along a significant portion of the depth of the cushion and has a taper on the top of the lower base member so that a thickness of the lower base member varies along a significant portion of the width of the cushion;

a second base member, located above the first base member, wherein a thickness of the second base member is substantially constant along a significant portion of the depth of the cushion and has a taper along a significant portion of the width of the cushion on the bottom of the upper base member such that the taper of the upper base member interfaces and complements the taper of the lower base member; and

an outer base member, having a generally u-shape with an inside surface which is adjacent to the left, right, and back surfaces of the lower and upper base members and an outside surface which forms the left, right and back surfaces of the base, a bottom surface which forms a part of the bottom surface of the base, and a top surface which has a taper wherein the thickness of the top surface at the inside surface is at least as much as the thickness of the lower and upper surfaces and wherein the thickness of the outer base member increases as to a maximum thickness at the outside surface of outer base member;

a cushion matrix comprising a plurality of individual cushion bladders, wherein each individual cushion bladder includes

- a first cushion member, comprised of a filler material;
- a second cushion member, located above and adjacent to the first cushion member, wherein the second cushion member is substantially isolated from the first cushion member, and wherein the second cushion member includes a heat

- transfer structure comprised of an encapsulated phase change material and a fill material;
- a support rail comprising a plurality of individual support bladders, wherein each of the individual bladders includes a compartment, comprising filler material, and wherein the individual bladders are attachable and detachable from the base and are arranged to extend along the left, right, and back edges of the cushion so as to substantially surround the cushion matrix along the left, right, and back edges; and an envelope, which provides the external surfaces of the cushion wherein the base, cushion matrix and support rail are located within a volume of the envelope and are arranged so that the base member is substantially closer to the bottom of the cushion than the cushion matrix and support rail.
33. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 32, wherein the first base member is securely attached to the outer base member to provide a pelvic captivation structure.
34. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 32, wherein the first and second base members are connected to each other through use of an adhesive and enclosed within a pouch.
35. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 32, wherein the support rail is shaped and positioned to include a structure on the back edge of the cushion to provide sacrum relief.
36. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 32, wherein at least one of the individual bladders that comprise the support rail has an exterior surface that is attached to itself along a cross-sectional area of the bladder so as to pinch the bladder and at least partially restrict movement of the filler material within the bladder.
37. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 32, wherein the phase change material is comprised of octadecane paraffin.
38. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 32, wherein the phase change material has a melting point of greater than 28 degrees Celsius.
39. (Previously Presented) The cushion of claim 32, wherein the phase change material has a re-crystallization point of less than 28 degrees Celsius.

40. (New) A pelvic captivation structure for use in a seat cushion, the pelvic captivation structure comprising:

- a generally U-shaped component including a pair of side members and a back member; and
- a front member attached to the side members to prevent lateral movement of the side members and to generally increase stability of a user when seated upon or repositioned with respect to the seat cushion.

41. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 40, wherein the pair of side members have a top surface, an outer surface and an inner surface, the top surface configured such that it is beveled from the outer surface to the inner surface to facilitate alignment of the user upon the seat cushion.

42. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 40, wherein the back member has a top surface, an outer surface, and an inner surface, the top surface configured such that a portion of the top surface is beveled from the outer surface to the inner surface to facilitate alignment of the user upon the seat cushion.

43. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 40, wherein the back member has a top surface, and outer surface, an inner surface, and a thickness, the top surface configured such that a portion of the top surface is discontinuous and a portion of the thickness is diminished to form a sacral notch to provide sacrum relief to the user seated upon the seat cushion.

44. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 40, wherein the pair of side members and the back member integrally form the U-shaped component.

45. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 44, wherein the U-shaped component has a generally continuous beveled top surface.

46. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 40, wherein the pair of side members are attached to the back member to form the generally U-shaped component.

47. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 46, wherein a mating surface of the first side member, a first mating surface of the back member, a first mating surface of the second side member, and a second mating surface of the back member are mitered such that

when the pair of side members are attached to the back member to form the generally U-shaped component, the U-shaped component has a generally continuous beveled top surface.

48. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 40, wherein the front member has a width generally equal to the distance between the pair of side members of the U-shaped component.

49. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 40, wherein the front member has a length that is generally less than a length from a front surface of the U-shaped component to an inside surface of the back member of the U-shaped component.

50. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 40, wherein the front member is configured such that it is tapered from a first thickness at a front surface to a second thickness less than the first thickness at a back surface to increase stability and facilitate alignment of the user seated upon the seat cushion.

51. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 40, wherein the pair of side members, the back member, and the front member integrally form the pelvic captivation structure.

52. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 40, wherein the U-shaped component is constructed of a polymeric material that cushions the user, increases stability, and facilitates alignment of the user seated upon the seat cushion.

53. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 40, further including a cushion member located on top of the U-shaped component to cushion the user seated upon the seat cushion.

54. (New) The pelvic captivation structure of claim 53, further including a cushion cover surrounding the cushion member and U-shaped component, the cushion cover formed from a flexible, moisture impervious material.

55. (New) A seat cushion comprising the pelvic captivation structure of claim 40.

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56. (New) A temperature control module for use in a seat cushion, the temperature control module comprising:

a thermal transfer element including a phase change material, the thermal transfer element configured and positioned to control heat transfer from a user seated on the seat cushion to maintain the user's skin temperature within a desired range; and a cushion element formed from a material that insulates the thermal transfer element and cushions the user when seated upon the seat cushion, the support element positioned beneath the thermal transfer element.

57. (New) The temperature control module of claim 56, wherein the thermal transfer element absorbs heat from the user seated on the seat cushion to maintain the user's skin temperature within the desired range by changing from a solid to a liquid.

58. (New) The temperature control module of claim 56, wherein the desired range of the user's skin temperature is from about 30°C to about 31°C.

59. (New) The temperature control module of claim 56, wherein the phase change material is generally contained within a flexible bladder.

60. (New) The temperature control module of claim 56, wherein the phase change material is a paraffin based material.

61. (New) The temperature control module of claim 56, wherein the thermal transfer element is configured to include varying amounts of the phase change material to maintain the user's skin temperature within a desired range.

62. (New) The temperature control module of claim 56, wherein the material of the cushion element is Floam™ or foam.

63. (New) The temperature control module of claim 56, wherein the material of the cushion element is generally contained within a flexible bladder.

64. (New) The temperature control module of claim 56, wherein the thermal transfer element and the cushion element are contained in a cushion module carrier such that the cushion element is positioned below the thermal transfer element in a primary interior volume and the thermal transfer element is positioned above the cushion element in a secondary interior volume.

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65. (New) The temperature control module of claim 56, further comprising a plurality of thermal transfer elements.

66. (New) The temperature control module of claim 65, wherein at least some of the plurality of thermal transfer elements vary in heat absorption from the user.

67. (New) The temperature control module of claim 56, further comprising a plurality of cushion elements.

68. (New) The temperature control module of claim 67, further comprising a plurality of thermal transfer elements.

69. (New) The temperature control module of claim 67, wherein at least some of the plurality of cushion elements contain varying amounts of material so as to accommodate the user's body contours.

70. (New) A seat cushion comprising the temperature control module of claim 56.

71. (New) A seat cushion comprising:

a pelvic captivation structure including

a generally U-shaped component including a pair of side members and a back member; and

a front member attached to the side members to prevent lateral movement of the side members and to generally increase stability of a user when seated upon or repositioned with respect to the seat cushion; and

a temperature control module including

a thermal transfer element including a phase change material, the thermal transfer element configured and positioned to control heat transfer from a user seated on the seat cushion to maintain the user's skin temperature within a desired range; and

a cushion element formed from a material that insulates the thermal transfer element and cushions the user when seated upon the seat cushion, the support element positioned beneath the thermal transfer element.

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72. (New) The seat cushion of claim 71, wherein the pair of side members have a top surface, an outer surface and an inner surface, the top surface configured such that it is beveled from the outer surface to the inner surface to facilitate alignment of the user upon the seat cushion.

73. (New) The seat cushion of claim 71, wherein the back member has a top surface, and outer surface, an inner surface, and a thickness, the top surface configured such that a portion of the top surface is discontinuous and a portion of the thickness is diminished to form a sacral notch to provide sacrum relief to the user seated upon the seat cushion.

74. (New) The seat cushion of claim 71, wherein the front member is configured such that it is tapered from a first thickness at a front surface to a second thickness less than the first thickness at a back surface to increase stability and facilitate alignment of the user seated upon the seat cushion.

75. (New) The seat cushion of claim 71, wherein the thermal transfer element absorbs heat from the user seated on the seat cushion to maintain the user's skin temperature within the desired range of from about 30°C to about 31°C by changing from a solid to a liquid.

76. (New) The seat cushion of claim 71, comprising a plurality of thermal transfer elements.

77. (New) The seat cushion of claim 71, comprising a plurality of cushion elements.

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